

I request that the requirement for Morse code for any/all amateur license be dropped immediately. I am a Field Engineer with almost thirty years of electronic experience. In twenty years in the US Army I supported HF systems in aircraft. Since retiring and becoming an Army support Contractor I have worked six straight years exclusively with HF. (To include long distance support and deployments into current areas of conflict to make "Army HF" happen.)

I also am incapable of learning Morse code. I suppose that I could get a doctor to vouch for that and waiver my way into HF, but why? There is no logical requirement at all, present day, for Morse code being required to be licensed to operate HF. As far as General & Extra class testing goes, I could pass both tests with a week of study. I know I have a lot more to learn and would look forward to joining in and supporting local/nation wide nets.

I am the perfect example of how the code requirement has damaged the Amateur ranks. I have a no-code technician license and am inactive. My prime interest is in HF. I love it and am good at it. I just can't do it when not at work. I have been excluded from "membership" by a code test that I don't need to help my community in a time of need.

My experience, intellect, wallet, and predisposition to serve are waiting for a chance to be a part of the true spirit of Amateur Radio.

Rock J. McLaughlin